

MSC Guidelines for Review of Escape from spaces below the bulkhead deck

Plan Review Guidance #: SOLAS-27

Effective Date

11/15/2002

Regulations

- ☐ SOLAS 2001 Cite: II-2/13.3.2.4.1
 - ☐ SOLAS 1974 Cite: II-2/28.1.5
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Contact Information

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Regulation Text

“At least one means of escape required by paragraphs 3.2.1.1 and 3.2.2 shall consist of a readily accessible enclosed stairway, which shall provide continuous fire shelter from the level of its origin to the appropriate lifeboat and life raft embarkation decks, or to the uppermost weather deck if the embarkation deck does not extend to the main vertical zone being considered. In the latter case, direct access to the embarkation deck by way of external open stairways and passageways shall be provided and shall have emergency lighting in accordance with Reg III/11.5 and slip-free surfaces underfoot. Boundaries facing external open stairways and passageways forming part of an escape route and boundaries in such a position that their failure during a fire would impede escape to the embarkation deck shall have fire integrity, including insulation values, in accordance with tables 9.1 to 9.4, as appropriate.”

MSC Guidelines for Review of Escape from spaces below the bulkhead deck

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Guidance

The stairway arrangement required by this regulation for below the bulkhead deck compartments of one main vertical zone can be arranged by:

- ❑ one enclosed stairway which provides continuous fire shelter from the level of its origin to the embarkation deck in one watertight compartment;
- ❑ each of the compartments have an enclosed stairway which provides continuous fire shelter from the level of its origin to the bulkhead deck; and the continuous fire shelter is also provided on the bulkhead deck through a route protected as a category 2 space (horizontal stairway).

The stairway should be "readily accessible." Therefore, if the stairway is in another zone it must be entered directly from the zone of escape (not via corridors or other spaces in the adjacent zone).

Background

This information is beneficial in describing the acceptable stair arrangements for evacuating people from areas below the bulkhead deck. This interpretation was not incorporated into the new version of SOLAS II-2.